MILES WALLINGFORD

By JAMES FENIMORE COOPER CHAPTER XV

"And as for those whose ransom we have set,
It is our pleasure, one of them depart:
Therefore come you with us, and let
hlm go."

him go."

King Henry VI.

By such simple means, and without resistance, as it might be, did I recover the possession of my ship, the Dawn. But now that the good vessel was in m, power, it was by no means an easy thing to say what was to be done with her. We were just on the verge of the ground occupied by the Channel cruisers, and it was preposterous to think of running the gauntlet among so many craft with the expectation of escaping. It is true, we might fall in with twenty English manother Speedy, to seize and order us into Plymouth, had everything been in order and in the usual state, but no cruiser would or could board us, and not demand the reasons why so large a ship should be navigated by so small a crew. It was over matters like these that Marble and I now consulted, no one being on the quarter-deck but the mate, who stood at the wheel, and myself. The cook was keeping a lookout on the forecastle. The Englishman had lain down, in full view, by my orders, at the foot of the mainmast; while Neb, ever ready to sleep when not on duty, was eatching a nap on the booms.

"We have got the ship, Moses," I commenced, "and the question next arises, what are we to do with her."

"Carry her to her port of destination, Captain Wallingford, to be sure. What else can we do with her, sir?"

"Ay, that is well enough, if it can be King Henry VI.

else can we do with her, sir?"

"Ay, that is well enough, if it can be done. But in addition to the difficulty of four men's taking care of a craft of five hundred tons, we have a sea before us that is covered with English cruisers."

us that is covered with English cruisers."

"As for the four men, you may safely set us down as eight. I'll engage we do as much in a blow, as eight such fellows as are picked up nowadays 'long shore. The men of the present time are mere children to those one met in my youth, Miles!"

Miles!"

"Neither Neb, nor the cook, nor I, am a man of other times, but are all men of to-day; so you must call us but three, after all. I know we can do much; but a gale may come that would teach us our insignificance. As it is, we are barely able to furl the main-topgallantsail in a squall, leaving one hand at the wheel, and another to let go rigging. No, no, Moses; we must admit we are rather short-handed, putting the best face on the matter."

"If you generalize in that mode, Miles, my dear boy, I must allow that we are. We can go up Channel, and ten chances to one but we fall in with some Yankee, who will lend us a hand or two."

"We shall be twice as likely to meet with King George's ship, who will overhaul our articles, and want to know what has become of the rest of our people."

"Then we'll tell'em that the rest of the crew has been pressed; they know their own tricks too well, not to see the reasonables of such an idee."

"No officer would leave a vessel of this size with only her master, mate, cook, and one man to take care of her, even had he found a crew of deserters from his own ship in her. In such a case, and admitting a right to impress from a foreigner at all, it would be his duty to send a party to carry the craft into port. No, no, Moses, we must give all the English a wide berth, now, or they will walk us into Plymouth, yet."

"Blast the hole! I was in it a prisoner during the revylushun, and never want to see its face ag'in. They've got what Neither Neb. nor the cook, nor I, am

dangerous for us, Moses. We have but two expedients to choose between: to turn our heads to the westward, and try to get home, trusting to luck to bring us up with some American who will help us, or steer due east and run for a French port—Bordeaux for instance—where we might either dispose of the cargo, or ship a new crew, and sail for our port of destination."

"Then try the last, by all means. With this wind we might shove the ship in with the land in the course of two or three days, and go clear of everything I like the idee, and think it can be carried out. Bordeaux is always full of Americans, and there must be menough to be had for the asking, knocking about the quays."

After a little further conversation, we determined on this plan, and set about carrying it into execution on the spot. In rounding-to, the ship had been brought by the wind on the larboard tack, and was standing to the northward and westward, instead of to the east-ward, the course we now wished to steer. ward, the course we now wished to steer. It was necessary, therefore, to wear round and get the ship's head in the right direction. This was not a difficult manœuvre at all, and the Englishman helping us with seeming good will, it was soon successfully executed. When this was accomplished, I sent the English sailor into the cabin to keep Diggins company, and we set a watch on deck of two and two, Marble and myself taking charge four hours and four hours, in the old mode.

I acknowledge that I slept little that night. Two or three times we detected Senuit attempting to haul close up under the ship's stern, out of all question with a view to surprise us, but as often would he drop to the length of his towrope, as he saw Marble's head and mine, watching him above the taffrail. When the day dawned I was called, and was up and on the lookout as our horizon enlarged and brightened round ship. The great object was to ascertain, as early as possible, what vessel might be in our neighborhood. I acknowledge that I slept little that

early as possible, what vessel might be in our neighborhood.

But a solitary sail was visible. She appeared to be a ship of size, close-hauled, heading to the southward and eastward; by steering on our proper course, or certainly by diverging a little to the northward, it would be an easy matter to speak her. As I could plainly lands; if an Englishman at all, yonder

see she was not a ship-of-war, my plan was formed in a moment. On communi-cating it to Marble, it met with his entire approbation. Measures were take accordingly, to carry it into immedia

accordingly, to carry it into immediate execution.

In the first place, I ordered Sennit, who was awake, and had been, I believe, the whole night, to haul the boat up and to lay hold of one of the boat up and to lay hold of one of the boat tackles. This he did willingly enough, no doubt expecting that he was to be received into the ship, under a treaty. I stood on the lookout to prevent an attack, one man being abundantly able to keep at bay a dozen who could approach only by ascending a rope hand over hand, while Marble went below to look after the two worthles who had been anoring all night in the cabin. In a minute my mate reappeared, leading up the seamen, who was still more asleep than awake. This man was directed to lay hold of the tackle and slide down into the boat. There being no remedy, and descending being far easier than assending, this exploit was soon performed, and we were well rid of one of our enemies. Sennit now began to remonstrate, and to point out the danger there was of being towed under, the ship going through the water the whole time at the rate of five or six knots. I knew, however, that the English were too skillful to run the risk of being drowned unnecessarily, and that they would let go of the tackle before

skinds. I knew, however, that the English were too skillful to run the risk of
being drowned unnecessarily, and that
they would let go of the tackle before
they would suffer the boat to be
swamped. It was ticklish work, I allow;
but they succeeded surprisingly well in
taking care of themselves.

We had more difficulty with Diggins.
This fellow had been so beastly drunk
that he scarce knew what he was about
when awoke; and Marble rather dragged
him on deck, and aft to the traffail
than assisted him to walk. There we
got him at last; and he was soon dangling by the tackle. So stupid and enervated was the master's mate, however,
that he let go his hold, and went into
the ocean. The souse did him good, I
make no doubt; and his life was saved
by his friends, one of the sailors catching him by the collar, and raising him
into the boat.

dent, to make further remonstrances on the subject of having any more men put in the boat. It was easy to see, it was as much his policy to get everybody out of that little conveyance, as it was mine to get all the English into her.

to get all the English into her.

"For God's sake, Captain Wallingford, knock off with this, if you please," cried the lieutenant, with a most imploring sort of civility of manner. "You see how it is; we can barely keep the boat from swamping, with the number we have in her; and a dozen times during the night I thought the ship would drag her under. Nothing can be easier than for you to secure us all, if you will let us come on board, one at a time."

"I do not wish to see you in irons, Mr. Sennit; and this will remove any Sennit; and this will remove any necessity for restoring to an expedient so unpleasant. Hold on upon the tackle, therefore, as I shall feel obliged

orders."
This threat had the desired effect. This threat had the desired effect. One by one, the men were let up out of the forecastle, and sent into the boat. Cooked meat, bread, rum, and water, were supplied to the English; and, to be ready to meet any accident, we lowered them a compass and Sennit's quadrant. We did the last at his own earnest request, for he seemed to sus-pect we intended sending him adrift, as indeed was my plan at the proper mo-

ment.

Although the boat had now twelve into port. No, no, Moses, we must give all the English a wide berth, now, or they will walk us into Plymouth, yet."

"Blast the hole! I was in it a prisoner during the revylushun, and never want to see its face ag'in. They've got what they call the Mill Prison there, and it's a mill that does grinding less to my taste than the thing of you'rn at Clawbonny. Why not go north-about, Miles? There must be few cruisers up that

the boat, and well provided with necessaries, we felt at more liberty to move about the ship, and exert themselves in taking care of her. The man at the wheel could keep an eye on the enemy—the Dawn steering like a pilot-boat.

Neb was sent aloft to do certain neces-Neb was sent aloft to do certain necessary duty, and the topgallant-sails being loose, the claw-lines were overhauled, and the sails set. I did this more to prevent the English ship from suspecting something wrong at seeing a vessel running off, before the wind, under such

running off, before the wind, under such short canvas, than from any desire to get ahead, since we were already going so fast as to render it probable we should pass the other vessel, unless we altered our course to meet her.

Diogenes Billings, the cook, had now a little leisure to serve us a warm break fast. If Mr. Sennit were living, I think he would do us the justice to say he was not forgotten. We sent the people in the boat some good hot coffee, well sweetened, and they had alfair share of the other comfortable eatables of which we partook ourselves. We also got out we partook ourselves. We also got out and sent them the masts and regular sails of the boat, which was fitted to

sails of the boat, which was fitted to carry two spirits.

By this time the stranger ship was within two leagues of us, and it became necessary to act. I sent Marble aloft to examine the horizon, and he came down to report nothing else was in sight. This boded well. I proceeded at once to the traffrail, where I hailed the boat, desiring Sennit to haul her up within comfortable conversing distance. This was done immediately.

"Mr. Sennit," I commenced, "it is necessary for us to part here. The ship

"Mr. Sennit," I commenced, "it is necessary for us to part here. The ship in sight is English, and will take you up. I intend to speak her, and will take care that she knows where you are. By standing due east you will easily cut her off, and there cannot be a doubt of her picking you up."

"For heaven's sake, consider a moment, Captain Wallingford," Sennit exclaimed, "before you abandon us out here, a 1000 miles from land."

"You are just 326 miles from Scilly.

vessel is a running West Indiaman; she may take us all the way to Jamaica."

"Well, then, you will have an opportunity of returning at your leisure. You wished to take me almost as much out of my course; or, if not absolutely out of my course, quite as much out of my time. I have as little relish for Plymouth as you seem to have for Jamaica."

"But the stranger may be a French-nan; now I look at him, he has a French

man; now I look at him, he has a French look."

"If he should be French, he will treat you well. It will be exchanging beef for soup-maigre for a week or two. These Frenchmen eat and drink, as well as you Euglish."

"But, Captain Wallingford, their prisons! This fellow Bonaparte exchanges nobody this war, and if I get into France I am a ruined man."

"And if I had gone into Plymouth, I fear I should have been a ruined man, too."

"Remember we are of the same blood, after all—people of the same stock—just as much countrymen as the natives of Kent and Suffolk. Old Saxon blood,

of Kent and Suffolk. Old Saxon blood, both of us."

"Thank you, sir. I shall not deny the relationship, since it is your pleasure to claim it. I marvel, however, you did not let your cousin's ship pass without detaining her."

"How could I help it, my dear Wallingford? Lord Harry is a nobleman, and a captain, and what could a poor devil of a lieutenant, whose commission is not yet a year old, do against such odds? No, no, there should be more feeling and good fellowship between chaps like you and me, who have their way to make in the world."

"You remind me of the necessity of being in motion. Adieu, Mr. Sennit. Cut, Moses!"

Marble struck a blow with the axe on the studding-sail halyards, and away

Marble struck a blow with the axe on the studding-sail halyards, and away the Dawn glided, leaving the boat coss-ing on the waves twenty fathoms farther astern, on the very first send of the sea. What Mr. Sennit said, I could not hear,

astern, on the very first send of the sea. What Mr. Sennit said, I could not hear, now, but I very plainly saw him shake his fist at me, and his head, too; and I make no manner of doubt, if he called me anything, that he did not call me a gentleman. In ten minutes the boat was fully a mile astern. At first Sennit did not appear disposed to do anything, lying motionless on the water in sullen stillness; but wiser thoughts succeeded, and, stepping his two masts, in less than twenty minutes I saw his sails spread, and the boat making the best of its way into the track of the stranger. It had been my intention, originally, to speak the strange ship, as I had told Sennit; but, seeing there was no probability of her altering her course so as to pass the boat, I changed my purpose, and stood directly athwart her forefoot, at about half a mile's distance, I set the Yankee bunting, and she showed the fonglish ensign in return. Had she been French, however, it would have made no odds to me, for what did I care about my late captors becoming prisoners of war? They had endeavored to benefit themselves at my cost, and I was willing enough to benefit myself at theirs.

We made our preparations for acting

We made our preparations for setting studding-sails now, though I thought there were signs of a desire in the Englishman to speak me. I knew he must be armed, and felt no wish to gratify him, inasmuch as he might take it into his head to make some inquiries concerning the boat which, if not already visible from his decks, soon must hear. I was certain the Dawn does a be. I was certain the Dawn, deep as she was, would go four feet to the Indiaman's three, and, once past him, I had no apprehensions in the event of

"Blast the hole! I was in it a prisoner during the revvylushun, and never want to see its face ag'in. They've got what they call the Mill Prison there, and it's a mill that does grinding less to my taste than the thing of you'rn at Clawbonny. Why not go north-about, Miles? There must be few cruisers up that a-way."

The road is too long, the weather is apt to be too thick, and the coast is too dangerous for us, Moses. We have but two excedients to choose between: to be too thick and well provided with necestage of her. After some delay, the lower about a mile on his lee quarter, with lower and top-mast to be troubled with passengers in go for salvage! I know these piccatobat when we were about a mile on his lee quarter, with lower and top-mast studding-sails set, going quite eight knots, on a due east course. We became aware of the fact by her hoisting a jack at the fore. From that moment I gave myself no concern on the subject of Sennit and his prize crew. Twenty minutes later, we saw the ship back her main-topsail, and, by means of the ship away, Neb—so; meet her—sued my plan steadily.

As soon as all the English were in the boat, and well provided with necestal longside of her. After some delay, the of her. After some delay, the yawl was hoisted on the deck of the ship and the latter filled her topsail. I had some curiosity to ascertain what would come next. It would seem that Sennit actually induced the master of the West Indiaman to give chase, for no sooner did the vessel gather way than she bore did the vessel gather way than she bore up after us, packing on everything that would draw. We were greatly rejoiced at having improved the leisure time in making sail ourselves, for having a lower studding-sail, and two topmast studding-sails on the ship, when this race began, I did not feel much apprehension of being overtaken. By way of making more sure of an escape, however, we set the royals.

When the West Indiaman notes up the chase, we were about two leagues ahead of our pursuer. So far from lessening this distance, though she carried royal this distance, though she carried royal this distance. this distance, though she carried royal studding-sails, we gradually increased it to three, until, satisfied he could do nothing, the master of the strange ship took in his light sails, and hauled by the took in his light sails, and hauled by the wind again, carrying the late prize crew in a direct line from England. I afterward learned that Sennit and his companions were actually landed in the island of Barbadoes, after a pleasant passage of only twenty-six days. I make no doubt it took them much longer to get back again, for it was certain that not one of them had reappeared in Eagland six months from that day.

We now had the ship to ourselves, though with a very diminished crew. The day was the time to sleep; and relieving each other at the wheel, those who were off duty slept most of the time when they were not eating. At six in

ing! As long as the wind remains in this quarter, we shall do well enough; should we actually get in safely, I shall not regret the delay, the credit of having done is so well, being worth as much to me as any interest on capital, or wear and tear of gear can possibly be. As for Mr. Sennit, I fancy he is some sixty miles off here at the southward and westword, and we've done with him for the voyage."

"Suppose he should fall in with the Speedy, and report what has happened, Miles?" returned the mate. "I have been calculating that chance. The stranger was standing directly for the frigate's cruising ground, and be may meet her. We will not halico, till we're out of the woods."

"That risk is so remote, I shall not let it give me any trouble. It is my intention to run in for the land at our fastest rate of sailing, and then profit by the best wind that offers, to get into the nearest haven. If you can suggest a better scheme, Moses, I invite you to speak."

speak."
Marble assented, though I perceived Marble assented, though I perceived he was not entirely free from the apprehension he had named until the next morning arrived, bringing with it no change, and still leaving us a clear sea. That day and the succeeding night, too, we made a capital run, and at meridian of the third day after the recapture of the Dawn, I calculated our position to be just one hundred and four miles to the southward and eastward of Ushant. The wind had shifted, however, and it had just come out light at northeast. We went to work, all hands of us, to get in the studding-sails, and to brace up and hanl aft; an operation that consumed nearly two hours. We were so busily employed, indeed, as to have little or no time to look about us, and my surprise was the less, therefore, when the cook called out look about us, and my surprise was the less, therefore, when the cook called out "Sail ho!" I was busy trimming the main yard, when the announcement was made and looking up, I saw a lugger standing toward us, and already within long gunshot. I afterward ascertained that perceiving us to be approaching her, this craft had lain like a snake in the grass, under bare poles, until she her, this craft had lain like a snake in the grass, under bare poles, until she thought us sufficiently near, when she made sail in chase. I saw at a glance, several important facts; in the first place, the lugger was French beyond all dispute; in the second, she was cruiser, public or private; in the third, escape from her, under any circumstances, was highly improbable. But why should we endeavor to escape from this vessel? The countries were at peace; we had just bought Louisians from France, and paid fifteen millions of dollars for it, thereby not only getting the country ourselves, but keeping it out of the hands of John Bull, and we were said to be excellent friends, again. Then the Dawn had extricated herself from English clutches, only a day or two before; no doubt the lugger would give us all the aid we could require.

aid we could require.

"She is Frence, for a thousand dollars,
Moses!" I cried, lowering my glass
from the first good look of the stranger;
"and keeping are the children.

Moses!" I cried, lowering my glass from the first good look of the stranger; "and keeping away two points, we shall speak her in fifteen minutes."

"Ay, French," rejoined the mate, "but, blast 'em all round, I'd much rather have nothing to do with any of the rogues. I'll tell you how it is, Miles, these are onmoralizing times, and the sea is getting to be sprinkled with so many Van Tassels, that I'm afeared you and I'll be just that dear, good old soul, my mother, and little Kitty, to be frightened, or, if not exactly frightened, to be wronged out of our just rights."

frightened, or, if not exactly frightened, to be wronged out of our just rights."

"Little fear of that this time, Moses this is a Frenchman; as we are bound to a French port, he'il not hesitate to lend us half a dozen hands, in order to help us along."

"Ay, and take half the ship and cargo for salvage! I know these piccaroons, and you ought to know 'em too, Miles, for it's only two or three years since you were a prisoner of war among 'em. That was a delightful feelin', I rather conclude."

Of course, these orders soon brought the two vessels alongside of each other. As the lugger approached, we made her out to be a stout, but active craft, of sixteen guns, and apparently full of men. She set the tricolor, when half a mile distant, sure of her prey, should we turn out to be a prize. We showed him the out to be a prize. We showed him the stars and stripes of course, fancying he would treat them as a friend. It was not long before both vessels had

"What sheep's zat?" demanded one in good broken English.
"The Dawn, of New York; may I ask

the name of your lugger?"
"Le Polisson—corsair Francais; what

"Le Polisson—corsair Francais; what you load, eh?"
"Sugar and coffee, with cachineal, and a few other articles."
"Peste! Vere you boun', Monsieur, s'il vous piait?"
"Hamburg."
"Diable! zis is non ze chemin. How

wind again, carrying the late prize erew in a direct line from England. I afterward learned that Sennit and his companions were actually landed in the island of Barbadoes, after a pleasant passage of only twenty-six days. I make no doubt it took them much longer to get back again, for it was certain that not one of them had reappeared in Eagland six months from that day.

We now had the ship to correlves, though with a very diminished crew. The day was the time to aleep; and relievely each other at the wheel, those who were off duty slept most of the time when they were not eating. At six in the evening, however, all hands were up, making our preparations for the night.

At that hour the wind was steady and favorable, the horison clear of vessels of every sort and the prospects of a pleasant night were sufficiently good. Therrun in the course of the day was equal to one hundred miles, and I computed the distance to Brest at something less than four hundred miles, and I computed the distance to Brest at something less than four hundred miles, and I computed the distance to Brest at something less than four hundred miles, and i computed the distance to Brest at something less than four hundred miles, and i computed the distance to Brest at something less than four hundred miles, and i computed the distance to Brest at something less than four hundred miles, and i computed the distance to Brest at something less than four hundred miles, and I computed the distance to Brest at something less than four hundred miles, and I computed the distance to find the prospects of a pleasant night were sufficiently good. The miles that hundred miles, and I computed the distance to the test and to repair on board the Pollsson was a little free for Frenchman manifested at pressert the miles and the prospects of a pleasant night were sufficiently good humor. He had one, who may be pressed to the cabin, a corrected to show my pore as regular about the cabin, a corrected to show my contained the prospects of the favorable, the first

long consultation in private, after the closest scrutiny could detect no flaw in the papers. Then Monsieur Gallois approached and renewed the discourse.

"Vy you have no boat, sair?" he asked.

"I lost my boat three days since, about a hundred leagues to the southward and westward."

"It is not have bad veddair! Why you got no more marins in your sheep?

you got no more marins in your sheep?

—eh!"

I saw it would be best to tell the —eh!"

I saw it would be best to tell the whole truth, as once, for, were I to get any aid from this lugger, the facts, sooner or later, must be made known. Accordingly, I gave the Frenchman, and his English-looking companion, a full account of what had occurred between us and the Speedy. After this narrative, there was another long conference between Monsleur Gallois and his friend. Then the boat was again manned, and the captain of the lugger, accompanied by his privy counsellor and myself, went on board the Dawn. Here, a very cursory examination satisfied my visitors of the truth of my story.

I confees, I expected some commendation from a Frenchman, when he heard the ready manner in which we had got our vessel out of the hands of the Philistines. No such thing; an expressive "Bon" had escaped Monsieur Gallois, once or twice, it is true; but it was apparent he was looking much sharper for seme pretext to make us a prize himself that for

"Bon" had escaped Monsieur Gallois, once or twice, it is true; but it was apparent he was looking much sharper for some pretext to make us a prize himself, than for reasons to commend our conduct. Each new aspect of the affair was closely scanned, and a new conference with the adviser was held, apart.

"Sair," said Monsieur Gallois, "I have mosh regret, but, your sheep is bon prize. You have been prisonnier to ze English, ze enemy of 1a France, and you shall not capture yourself. L'Amerique is not at war—is neutral, as you shall say, and ze Americains cannot make ze prize. I considair your ship, Monsieur, as 'n ze hand of ze English, and shall capture him. Mes regrets sont vifs, mais, que voulezvous? Le corsair most do his devoir, ze same as ze sheep national. I shall send you to Brest, vere, if you be not sold par un decret, I shall be too happy to restore votre batiment. Allons!"

ment. Allons!"

Here was a denouement to the affair, with a vengeance! I was to be captured, because I had been captured.

"Once a corporal, always a corporal."
As the English had taken me, the French would take me. A prize to-day, you must be a prize to-morrow. I have always thought the case of the Dawn was the first of the long series of wrongs that were subsequently committed on American commerce, in virtue of this same principle, a little expanded and more effectually carried out perhana more effectually carried out, perhaps, and which, in the end, terminated by blockading all Europe, and interdicting

blockading all Europe, and interdicting the high seas on paper.

I knew the uselessness of remonstrating with a rapacious privateersman.

"Let him send me in," I thought to myself, at first; "it is just where I wish to go; once in, the minister must get me clear. The fellow will only be the dupe of his own covetousness, and I shall profit by it, in the degree that he will be a loser!"

I presume Monsieur Gallois entertained a very different view of the matter, for he manifested great alacrity in throwing a crew of no less than seventeen souls, big and little, on board us. I watched these operations in silence, as did Ned and Diogenes. As for Marble, he lighted a cigar, took his seat on the windlass, and sat in dignified anger, ready to explode on the slightest occasion, yet apprehensive he might be

palatial Florida hotels, in the height of

The great native palms, the scent of

The great native palms, the scent of the magnoliss and orange blossoms that floated in from the grounds, the brilliant electrics, the strains of the orchestra, all intoxicated the senses.

The sight of beautiful women, and handsome men in evening dress, gliding through the mazes of the dance was animating and fascinating, and one could not help feeling, for the moment at least, the delicious sense of pleasure that becomes in its fulness so dangerous to the spiritual atmosphere.

* * * * * *

A group stood apart, near an arch A group stood apart, near an archway of southern moss. A young girl of twenty-three and two men. One of them was evidently her brother, a strong family resemblance marking the two. The other man was older, with a professional look, and at this moment his face was lined with grave thought in spite of the festivities about him. He was apparently well acquainted with the young man who had introduced him to his sister—a new arrival from the North.

"I tell you, Miss Laura," said the elder man, "I am used to scenes of pain, but my heart ached for that family this evening!"

The young girl had been listening with intense interest. Her heart had been besting strongly with an appeal, and not in vain. "Doctor," she said, "I have just graduated as a trained nurse from the Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh, after years of study, for the course is very thorough. I came here for a little vacation trip to see my brother, who resides here, and for a little relaxation before I began work. Now, this will be my first case! Will you take me to this family?"

my first case! Will you take me to this family?"

"Why, Laura!" interrupted the brother, "this is your vacation!" and he frowned. "You can't begin work so soon, you need rest!"

"This family, Miss Laura," said the Doctor, "can't afford to remunerate you for your services. I doubt whether they could give you enough to eat."

"Exactly what appeals to me, Doctor. If they had wealth and comfort they could get anyone to nurse them! Come, we lose time. You said that some of the children were dying! Suppose we go to them!"

"They will all die, I think, if things go on. This is a noble resolve of yours, Miss Laura, I honor you for it, but hadn't you better think twice about it?"

miss laura, I honor you for it, but hadn't you better think twice about it?"

"Why, Sia," said her brother, "this is a suicidal act of charity; be sensible! Maybe they won't want you!"

"Nothing like trying, Bob," said the girl with a smile. "Come, Doctor, give me five minutes to get on my uniform, and call a cab, for I mean to help those people," and she ran off, gained the wide staircase and disappeared. They had left the ball-room and were standing in the lobby. The two men looked at each other. "What do you think of that, Doctor?" said Bob, "why, that girl has just come from a strenuous four years of hard study and hard work. I coaxed her down here for a rest, and got her to the ball to-night to see life as it goes here, and you come along with

got her to the ball to-night to see life as it goes here, and you come along with your story of sickness and poverty, and away she files on a tangent."

"Hold on, Bob! She is a woman in a thousand! We all know that when the Lord got the angels into Paradise He left a fewlof them floating around this old earth to keep it from falling to pieces? Your sister is one of these angels! Give her the right of way, she'll come outiall right! God bless her!"

"Oh! its' your profession, old sawbones? Of course you think it's all right, but she's my sister! I'm proud of her, and want to keep her as long as I can with me!"

can with me!"
"You'll be prouder of her than ever

"You'll be prouder of her than ever when she puts these poor people on their feet I Don't say a word, Bob! Let her do as she said. By Jove! I could worship such a woman!"
"Well, keep off, or I'll tell your wife!" said the younger man, smiling, as the subject of the conversation tripped down the stairs in the fresh white linen uniform of a pursue conversing a small

down the stairs in the fresh white linen uniform of a nurse, carrying a small satchel. Throwing a long light overcoat over his dress-suit, her brother ran to call a taxicab, and the Doctor who had on no dress suit, held out his hand and looked at her admiringly.

"You're a queen, Miss Laura! The Lord will surely work miracles for you. Not one young woman in twenty would lay down her pleasure and take up this work, as you are doing. But it will come back to you some day!"

"Nonsense, Doctor, I'm not used to physicians bestowing flattery. If I give my first case to the Lord, as an offering, I know He will bless my life, God is never outdone in generosity."

God is never outdone in generosity."

The physician turned his head away

The physician turned his nead away, the did not want this girl to see the impression she had made. Just then her brother came up.
"Well, Laura, I know there's no use

"Well, Laurs, I know there's no use arguing with you when you have made up your mind. I learned that when I was a youngster. Here's a taxi, and I'm going with you as far as as the house to see if it is habitable."

"You dear old Bob!" said his sister.

"You always rise to the occasion! Just see how soon we will cure them all! Won't we, Doctor?" The Doctor shook his head, and they

all started for the taxi which was buzzing at the door.
They reached their destination,

small cottage on the outskirts of Jack sonville. The Doctor told the chauffeur to wait, and ran up the little garden-walk and opened the door. The feeble cries of a sick child fell on the ear, and a pale, slender woman stepped out into the vestibule, but drew back startled when she saw the uniformed nurse, the Doctor and another gentleman.

"I've brought you a nurse, Mrs. Stanton!" said the Doctor cheerily. Mrs Stanton looked helplessly from one to the other.

"But—Doctor—you know we canno

"But—Doctor—you know we cannot pay a nurse," she gasped.
"That will be all right," said Laura in a sweet voice, "the Doctor will attend to that part of it, and I am his assistant. Where are the children?"
"But, Miss," stammered the poor woman, "I don't understand!"

woman, "I don't understand!"

"It isn't necessary to understand anything just now, but the helping those children. Do you want to lose them?" said the Doctor gruffly.

'Oh, No! No!" sobbed the broken-

'Oh, No! No!" sobbed the brokendown mother, looking from one to the other.

"Well, then, bring us to the bed-room. Bob, sit down here till we come back."

Bob entered the door of a small room where a man was seated by a drop-light, reading the paper. He had heard the whole conversation in the vestibule and

whole conversation in the vestibule and the expression on his face was of annoyance. His thin, drawn features and hollow-eyes, his emaciated frame, and the dry, hacking cough evoked all the pity that was born in the athletic figure and fine physique of his visitor.

"Good evening, Mr. Stanton," said Bob. "The Doctor is my friend, and the nurse is my sister, so I came along. My sister is half a doctor herself."

"You are very welcome visitors," said the consumptive, "but we are not rich, and cannot afford to pay a nurse, I don't know why the Doctor brought one."

He Got a Call

Dearest Hubby—When you go out of town again, please leave my CAM-PANA ITALIAN BALM at home, as I need it for my complexion these windy, dusty days. If you want it for your old shaving, buy a bottle for yourself, stingy. Cecilic.

"Oh! don't trouble yourself about that," said Bob, humoring the pride of the poor man, "my slater is pleased when she can practice her profession. She and the Doctor work for the love of

work!"

Upstairs the wife led the way to a room with two little beds and a sofaupon which the amall sufferers lay tossing and moaning. The mother went to the little girl, who was crying for her, and while above was across the room, the while she was across the room the Doctor laid his hand on the pulse of the baby who was lying, motionless and

baby who was lying, motionless and white.

"You may as well get ready to draw the sheet over this poor baby," he said in a low voice, "he is almost gone!"

He went to the others, said a few words to the heart-broken mother and then warmly shook hands with the nurse after giving her some directions. "May the angels guard and bless you, Miss Laurs, you are surely kin to them. Good night!"

The nurse smiled a farewell and immediately gave her attention to her

charge.
In a short time with cooling medicine

In a short time with cooling medicine and careful spongeing they were quieted and as the grateful mother looked on hopefully Nurse Laura said in a low gentle voice:

"Now, Mrs. Stanton, you have confidence in me, I see; I want you to lie down and get some sleep. If anything occurs, any change in the condition of these poor little darlings I will call you at once. If I don't take care of you I will have you on my hands too," she finished with a smile.

The poor mother took both of her hands in hers and wrung them silently. Then she left the room and going to the room opposite, left the door a little open but Nurse Laura softly closed it in a few minutes, wishing the weary woman

fretting.

Downstairs the Doctor and her brother had departed and she had waved goodbye from the window. The consumptive father, whose bed was on the first floor, had retired and save for his day shelter a country.

his dry hacking cough all was still.

The nurse examined the baby; and although the Doctor said he was almost although the Doctor said he was almost gone, she worked with him as only a true woman and a skilful nurse can, and was rewarded by seeing the ghastliness of his face give way to a more life-like hue. From one bed to another she passed all night long, giving medicine, cooling their pillows, sponging their fevered heads, and limbs, and when the dawn appeared it seemed to her that none of them would die, although the danger was by no means over. The mother slept the heavy sleep of tired nature, and no sound came from her room. The nurse scarcely sat down all night, but when the first pink glow of morning rose out of the East she lifted her first case," a labor of love and puriest charity, and begged His blessing on it. Then the thought of the souls of this family came to her for she had graduated from a Catholic hospital in Western Pennsylvania, one of the finest in the land, and hare ashe had larged. Western Pennsylvania, one of the finest in the land, and here she had learned in the land, and here she had learned from the Nun teacher who presided over the nurses' class that, together with care for the patient's body came a care for his soul. A slight noise drew her attention. The mother stood in the

doorway.

"They are all doing well, Mrs. Stanton," she whispered. "We will try to pull them through."

"Oh! thank God!" murmured the

mother. "You are a Catholic, are you not?" said the nurse. A blush overspread the

said the nurse. A blush overspread the woman's face.

"I ought to be," she said at last, but Mr. Stanton was a bitter Presbyterian, and after I was married a while he began to say such harsh contemptuous things about my religion and the Church that for peace sake I dropped everything. I haven't been inside of a Catholic Church for thirteen years!"

"Oh! you poor unfortunate!" said the nurse, "and are not the children baptized?"

"Oh! you poor unfortunate: said the nurse, "and are not the children baptized?"
"No," said the mother, "I did not dare to raise a fuss again, although many time. I've wept bitter tears in secret "But how could you rest, in the present circumstances knowing that were in

such imminent danger ? heart these days and nights I have watched them! Oa, how I prayed to
Go I that something might happen that
they could be baptized! But I am
afraid to mention it to my husband, he
would get into a rage and it might bring

would get into a rage and it might bring on a hemorrhage!"

"You are timid," said the nurse
"this is a question of three immortal
souls and they must be saved! Is there
a priest in the neighborhood?"

"On yes, I believe there is, but I beg of you not to mention it to my husband,"
said the weak little woman.
"Does he come up to see the chil-

dren?"
"Every morning, the first thing. If he hears us talking he will get alarmed and will be up before you know it." A moan from the little girl called the nurse and mother to her side. The child wanted a drink, and while the nurse gave it and soothed her, the mother stood there smiling.

Pruning the **Appendix**

What thousands of people are rushed to the hospitals these days with the to the hospitals these days with the idea that pruning the appendix will rid them of the cause and effect of wrong habits of eating and living.

We eat too much, take too little outdoor exercise, breathe impure air, and when the system gets loaded with foul impurities, which irritate the digestive system and set up inflammation, we are told that the operating table is the only place for us.

told that the operating table is the only place for us.

Why not prevent appendicitis, as well as acute indigestion, peritonitis and Bright's disease of the kidneys, by keeping the liver active and the bowels regular. Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills cleanse the digestive system of foul impurieties more quickly than any treatment you can obtain. They awaken the liver and ensure the healthful action of the kidneys and bowels.